

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-13 (canceled).

14. (currently amended) Sonotrode for an ultrasonic welding device having a longitudinal axis, said sonotrode having a body portion and a head portion of greater diameter than the body portion and comprising at least one working surface for welding metal which is substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis, a front surface which is substantially perpendicular to the at least one working surface, and a back surface which includes a tapered portion of gradually reducing diameter in a direction of the body portion, the back surface and tapered portion joining the working surface to the body portion,

the sonotrode transferring ultrasonic vibrations in the direction of the longitudinal axis,

wherein the front surface comprises at least one reinforcement for reducing deflection of the at least one working surface, the reinforcement exhibiting triangular geometry or curved and protruding geometry in a section of the longitudinal axis, and being shaped symmetrically with respect to a symmetry plane in which the longitudinal axis runs.

15. (previously presented) Sonotrode according to claim 14, wherein the reinforcement is a rib.

Claim 16 (canceled).

17. (previously presented) Sonotrode according to claim 14, wherein the reinforcement increases in height over the front surface from a peripheral edge of the front surface at the at least one working surface, in the direction of the longitudinal axis.

18. (previously presented) Sonotrode according to claim 14, wherein the reinforcement runs perpendicular to the at

least one working surface.

19. (previously presented) Sonotrode according to claim 14, wherein the reinforcement is shaped in a linear manner.

20. (previously presented) Sonotrode according to claim 14, wherein the reinforcement projects from the entire, or substantially entire, front surface.

Claim 21 (canceled).

22. (previously presented) Sonotrode according to claim 14, wherein the reinforcement is shaped in a beaded manner, as a beam in a linear manner, respectively.

23. (currently amended) Sonotrode according to claim 14, wherein the sonotrode is reinforced in such a way that, with ultrasonic excitation, deflection a_z of the sonotrode, acts in the direction of its longitudinal axis ~~(40)~~ by deflecting a_y perpendicular to the working surface ~~(28, 30)~~, where $3 \leq a_z / a_y \leq 20$.

24. (previously presented) Sonotrode according to claim 14, wherein the reinforcement has a maximal extension d , over the front surface, of $3 \text{ mm} \leq d \leq 25 \text{ mm}$.

25. (previously presented) Sonotrode according to claim 24, wherein $5 \text{ mm} \leq d \leq 15 \text{ mm}$.

26. (previously presented) Sonotrode according to claim 14, wherein the reinforcement has a maximal extension d , over the front surface, of 10 mm.

27. (previously presented) Sonotrode according to claim 14, wherein the reinforcement is unitary in structure with the sonotrode head.